

1           Whereas, from 1929 to 1974, North Carolina's Eugenics Board reviewed  
2 petitions for sterilizations, and sterilizations were ordered in more than 90% of the cases  
3 before the Board; and

4           Whereas, researchers estimate that more than 7,600 people were sterilized in  
5 North Carolina between 1929 and 1974, ranking North Carolina third among the states  
6 operating eugenic sterilization programs; and

7           Whereas, over the lifetime of the Eugenics Sterilization Program,  
8 approximately 38% of those persons sterilized under the Program were black, and 84%  
9 of all sterilized under the Program were female; and

10           Whereas, over the lifetime of the Eugenics Sterilization Program,  
11 approximately 71% of those persons sterilized under the Program were done so due to  
12 being classified as being 'feebleminded', which were predominantly people with  
13 intellectual disabilities, 24% due to being classified as being mentally ill, and 5%  
14 because they had epilepsy; and

15           Whereas, while most states sharply curtailed their sterilization programs after  
16 World War II, nearly four-fifths of sterilizations in North Carolina were performed after  
17 1945; and

18           Whereas, the governors of Virginia, Oregon, South Carolina, and North  
19 Carolina have issued apologies for these forced sterilizations, and Governor Michael F.  
20 Easley established a committee to investigate the eugenics program and consider  
21 compensation or counseling services for these persons; and

22           Whereas, the General Assembly urges the citizens of this State to become  
23 familiar with the history of the eugenics movement, in the belief that a more educated,  
24 enlightened and tolerant population will reject absolutely any such abhorrent pseudo-  
25 scientific movement in the future; and

26           Whereas, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Joe  
27 Hackney, established the House Select Committee on Compensation for Victims of the  
28 Eugenics Sterilization Program to study proposals to compensate persons sterilized  
29 under the Program; Now, therefore,  
30 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

31           **SECTION 1(a).** The Department of Health and Human Services shall  
32 explore options and develop a proposal for providing behavioral health counseling  
33 services to confirmed survivors of the State Eugenics Sterilization Program and report  
34 its recommendations and legislative proposals to the 2010 regular session of the 2009  
35 General Assembly on or before the convening of that session.

36           **SECTION 1(b).** The Department of Health and Human Services shall  
37 immediately create a database of individuals petitioned for sterilization under the State  
38 Eugenics Sterilization Program. The database shall be developed in four phases,  
39 according to a proposal developed by the Department of Health and Human Services in  
40 conjunction with the Department of Cultural Resources. Records maintained in the  
41 database shall be confidential and shall not be subject to public disclosure pursuant to  
42 G.S. 132-6(a).